

# Orange and Blue

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*Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn*

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VOL. XVI.

AUBURN, ALA., APRIL 1 1910.

No. 8.

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Entered at the Post Office at Auburn, Ala., as second class mail matter, in accordance with Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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Address all matter intended for publication to the Editor-in-Chief. Business communications should be sent to the Business Manager.

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## FOREWORD

In presenting this Agricultural Issue to our readers we beg to acknowledge our indebtedness to the Orange and Blue Board which has kindly consented to give the agricultural students full charge of this edition. We also wish to express our thanks to the college and to the students for financial aid, without which the edition could not have been published.

We have tried in the following pages to discuss live subjects in such a way as to create a deeper interest in agricultural questions as well as to show what Auburn is doing toward preparing young men for greater service in developing Alabama's agricultural resources. We trust that we have been able, in some measure, to point out some of the problems now confronting the farmers of our State, and to call attention to some of the opportunities held out to them.

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## THE VALUE OF AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

By D. M. CLEMENTS.

Our country is today full of farmers but the majority of them are the veriest drudges, because of their utter ignorance of the fundamental principles. They are not farmers by choice and for the love of it, but by location and force of circumstances. It is not a profession with them but a galling servitude. An agricultural education in our Land-grant colleges will make men of brains, of systematic training, and of thorough information, who will engage in and lift up agriculture as a noble profession.

This education may be compared to a wheel, the hub of which is the foundation. Connected to this hub are seven strong spokes, and the rim and tire of this wheel are the students' powers of assimilating the principles involved. Without the spokes the hub has no value and unless the spokes are closely related to the tire and rim the wheel as a whole is useless. Just so with an agricultural education. Without it, the farmer of the Twentieth Century is behind his day.

The spokes of this wheel are physics, chemistry, botany, a knowledge of machinery, horticulture, agronomy, and animal industry. With the proper knowledge of these subjects the farmer of today can travel life's rugged pathway with no thought of failure.

By having an agricultural education the farmer of this age has done wonderful things. If they were to quit the business and sell out they would be compelled to sell on a credit for there is not enough money in the United States to buy these valuable lands. These great men make enough money in seventeen days to buy out the Standard Oil Company, and in fifty days their income is sufficient to wipe Andrew Carnegie and the Steel Trust Trust off the face of the globe. One harvest will buy

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Belgium and the King thrown in, and five harvests will buy Russia from the Czar.

The farmers of this age use the four M's—mind, money, machinery and muscle. He is no Robinson Crusoe of the soil as the old farmer was, but he is a man among men. He is the most typical human product this country has ever produced and the most important. The brain working farmer is the man behind prosperity. He is a man who holds up the national structure in time of panic. When the panic of last year was going on, the farmer was calmly gathering his crops and when in need of money went to his own banks and borrowed from himself.

An agricultural education does more toward making a man a leader among men than anything else. A young man who has just completed his course in agriculture is a very influential man upon his return to the farm. Many farmers of the community question him upon various subjects and he is willing to impart to them the knowledge he has acquired. Not long after this, he becomes recognized as one of the prominent men of his community, and knowing he has friends, and realizing that it is his duty to uplift his community in every way possible, he goes to work for the improvement of his town. When this is successfully carried through the educated farmer does not rest, but goes to work for his county, and then for his State. It is in this way that an agricultural education helps a man. No uneducated farmer ever jumps into prominence. If he ever becomes prominent it is only through the hard knocks of experience and then when he does become recognized as a leader he has not the ability to impart his knowledge to his fellow farmers for he has not been trained to reason and talk as the educated farmer has.

If it is true that even the groveling man of intense ignorance of the principles of his business, can yet make a living, and a moderately good one at farming, in com-



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If it is true that even the groveling man of intense ignorance of the principles of his business, can yet make a living, and a moderately good one at farming, in com-

parison with the ignorant laborer, peddler, or employed in the city, then what hinders the intelligent, enterprising, neighborly farmer, gardner, fruit grower, or florist, from having one of the best and happiest homes on earth? If the open light and air of Heaven can conduce to the highest health he has them: if the ever varying landscape, the myriad forms, hues, and perfumes of flowers and fruits; the graceful and vigorous motions of children and domestic animals; the loving attachment to those things he has spent his life upon developing to the highest degree; the family ties, usually purer and stronger than in city life, tend to refine and enlarge the science of the beautiful and the doctrines of morality in his nature, he has them. By having these he has employment, food and clothing, contentment, and happiness, honor and peace. The Agricultural profession has a broad field for discovery, and all that is needed is the scientific education which will act as a guide to these hidden treasures. On the field of Dairy Industry there is much to be learned and Botany, Entomology, and Forestry have wide fields for study. A four year course in agriculture puts one in a position to be a successful farmer. It makes him a bread winner of the highest type. It puts him in a position to do something somebody wants done. It gives him a knowledge of the laws of nature and fits him so as to be able to put his theory into practice. It offers a sound education and turns out not only an educated farmer but an educated man. An agricultural education makes its men the peers of the graduates of any of the courses of the land-grant colleges. It fits a man for life. It offers the opportunity of producing living, pulsating, models of plants and animals rather than their counterfeit on canvas.

There are opportunities offered by the United States Department of Agriculture that cannot be equalled in any other profession and only agriculturally educated men can hold these positions. In 1901 the salaries rang-

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ed from \$480 to \$1,200 a year and this year the government wants eighteen men educated in Animal Industry at a salary of \$1,600 to \$1,800 a year and twenty veterinary men at \$1,800 to \$2,200 a year to go to the Philippine Islands. We know that the problems of the past have been problems for engineers but the problems of the future are problems for the farmer. The problems of the future will be much more difficult than were those of the past but the farmers of the future will be much better prepared to solve them and will be able to do their tasks with a greater degree of accuracy.

The colleges of agriculture are teaching the sciences relating to life in a practical manner, so that one may become useful both to himself and to mankind. It is an education for agriculture, in agriculture, and by agriculture. It is a sound education worthy of deepest intellect. The present and the future demand men prepared to solve the greatest problems—the problems which concern living things. Who knows why clay soils are sticky and sandy soils are not? Who can answer this fundamental fact with which the farmer is daily associated? Why cannot a stalk of corn be successfully matured in a pot? Whoever answers these, answers some of the fundamentals but still unknown questions concerning plant growth. One acre in every three that is plowed in the United States is planted in corn. If all the pig-iron mined in the United States, had been made into steel rails in 1899, they would not have purchased the corn crop that year. Yet each year one-fifth of this great crop is lost in curing. He who gives the reason and applies the remedy will acquire fame and receive the gratitude of his fellow men. These problems are unlimited but the greatest of them are yet beyond the vision of man. To him who has prepared himself to solve these life problems will come the opportunities of the future. The world waits for him, its reward will not be meagre.

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## RAISING MULES IN ALABAMA.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, along with many other awakenings, the Agricultural interests of the South began slowly to open their sleepy eyes and look stupidly about. The custom in those good old days was to clear up lands, cultivate them for a few years and abandon them to herds of tick infested cattle, rainbow hogs and where wolves would permit, to flocks of sheep. The farm mule of that time usually carried great conical appendages on his head. His ears were small and his feet were forked.

Gradually it dawned on the awakening public mind that the species with small round feet and large ears and without the useless head adornments answered every requirement of the draft animal and showed many decided improvements over the old order of things. As the rustic mind gradually grasped the significance of these advantages, the old species began slowly to retire by way of the kitchen. The process has continued till the present, and yet there are a few teams of the old order scattered here and there over the country.

At present Alabama boasts a work animal to each five or six inhabitants. This animal will weigh from 500 to 1,300 pounds. With the improved implements now used the average farmer is enabled to produce \$143.00 worth of crops per year, principally cotton. In Iowa where work animals are as numerous as people and twice as heavy as ours, the average farmer is able to produce only \$1,043.00 worth of crops per year. Would an Alabama farmer be troubled with those four or five extra animals for a mere trifle of \$900.00? Suppose, for sake of argument, that Mr. Alabamian wished to make the experiment, what would that mean to the State? For years a stream of money (millions of dollars per year) has flowed from the plains, hills and valleys of Alabama to other States for mules alone, to say nothing of vari-



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ous other products of which it is not the purpose of this article to treat. To adequately supply himself with draft animals the farmer finds two alternatives to choose between. The one is to increase the golden stream to a raging torrent having five or six times its present volume,—a proposition not to be considered for a moment. The other is to produce the mules within the State.

If for a few years the money now being exchanged for mules could be diverted to the purchase of heavy brood mares, preferably of the Percheron breed, at a cost of \$500.00 to \$600.00 per pair, and one progressive farmer in each community would invest \$1000.00 in a good jack, Alabama would soon be raising her own mules and selling a surplus instead of buying them as at present. A good beginning could be made with much less expense, and the ultimate object could soon be attained with little or no increase over the amount now paid annually for mules.

A good pure bred jack ought easily to net his owner \$300.00 per year. The mares, if bred at the proper time, ought each to rear a colt every year with little loss of time from work. The cost of rearing mules to the age of eighteen months or two years can, if proper hay crops and pasturage are provided, be held down to \$50.00 or \$75.00 each. At that age they should sell readily at from \$150.00 to \$250.00 each, giving the farmer an enormous profit. When a community has been supplied with mules, the professional dealer will be standing ready to buy any surplus that may occur at good prices.

In addition to keeping money at home and bringing more to keep it company, the feeding of these stock will necessitate the growing of leguminous forage and hay crops and general crop rotation, which, combined with stock-raising, will prove to be the agricultural salvation of the State. The manure from the increased number of animals will alone be worth hundreds of thousands

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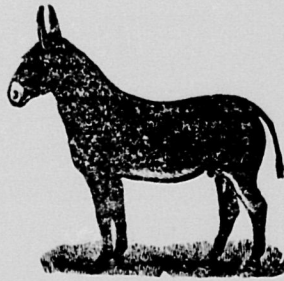
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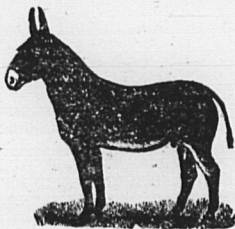
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## ALABAMA'S NEED OF EDUCATED FARMERS.

In the past the tilling of the soil was an occupation left almost entirely to poor and uneducated class of people; but that day is fast passing, and today we find the best men—the educated men—of all classes taking up farming, not merely as an *avocation*, but as their calling—their life work. A thinking man looking about him and seeing our ever increasing population congesting in and about the cities and towns, realizes that this population must be fed, and he naturally turns his thoughts toward the source that supplies this food. He looks to the farms, and too often he sees there a system of management that makes no provision for the maintenance of its fertility; and as a result, the average yield per acre decreasing year by year. When he beholds these things he realizes that on the farm there is indeed a field of vast possibilities. He knows that this reckless depletion of our soil fertility—this wasting of our country's resources—is as unnecessary as it is short-sighted, and that a permanent system of farming should be *constructive* instead of *destructive* in its nature. He realizes that a farmer who thoroughly understands the scientific principles of his business is best fitted to survive in this fierce "struggle for existence." As a result, a large and increasing number of earnest young men is each year found at our Agricultural Colleges seeking a knowledge of the great fundamental principles underlying the science of farming.

What are some of the essentials for success in a present day farmer? First and most important is the "personal equation" of the man. In the great game of life *brains* are "trumps," and a modern farmer needs his "trumps" three hundred and sixty five days in the year. Agriculture is not an exact science like mathematics or chemistry—it is ever variable—and it takes a man with a high order of intelligence to meet these ever



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varying conditions. A farmer should be familiar with his own peculiar conditions of soil and climate. He should know what crops and animals thrive best under such conditions. And last, but by no means least, he should be acquainted with modern *business methods*, and *apply* them.

But granted that a man has the knowledge of farming, what inducements does ALABAMA hold out to him. We promptly answer that *she has the advantages*—what she needs is *trained men*. She has a great diversity of soils and a great range of climate, which makes possible the profitable production of an almost endless variety of crops. Her rainfall is abundant. Her transportation facilities are ample. She is traversed from end to end by numerous railroads, and her perishable products can be put on the northern markets in a very few hours. She has numerous rivers that furnish a cheap means of transportation (and which are also capable of furnishing economical power for countless industrial enterprises.) She has an opening to the Gulf of Mexico which gives her a ready outlet for her products. This port will be of still greater importance after the completion of the Panama canal.

Being in the heart of the cotton belt, cotton is of course our principle crop—and it always should be. It should not be raised exclusively and other crops neglected, however. *We must live. We must eat.* No matter how much cotton we produce, our prosperity will never be permanent until we produce at home our own food-stuffs. With a diversified system of farming, with cotton as a money crop, the South could become rich in *one decade*. We will never be able to do this, however, until we educate our farmers. Until we cease to do things only because our fathers did them, and to do them like our fathers did. Our farming operations need to be based upon something more substantial than that, they need to be based upon reason.

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But farming in Alabama, like all other things, has its dark as well as its bright side—in this case, however, the bright side is by far the more important. There are disadvantages—some of them serious ones—but they can be overcome by men who *know how*. Our labor is largely negro labor of course, and is usually very inefficient. Our mild winters are themselves a disadvantage in one respect. In the North the ground is frozen most of the winter and this keeps the plant food from leaching out. But in the South the ground is never frozen for more than a few hours at a time, and even then only a few inches on the surface. This alternate freezing and thawing, accomplished by the winter rains, furnishes the best conditions for the leaching out of the plant food in the soil. A greater amount of our soil fertility is lost in that way than the average man realizes. Our public roads are nothing like as good as they should be. The social conditions in the rural communities are often far from what a man of education and refinement would want to live under. The rural schools are too poor, and schools and churches are too few in number.

These are grave problems that present themselves for solution, and they must inevitably be solved. Before they can be solved, however, the *masses* must be educated—the efficiency of the individual, of the *laboring* man, must be increased. The farmer must learn that the cheapest labor is not a large number of ignorant men at a small price per man, but a smaller number of men with greater individual efficiency. He must be brought to realize that a farmer two miles from town on a bad road is in reality farther from town than a man five miles from town, but on a good road. He must learn that the labor of a mule is cheaper than the labor of a man—that one man with two mules can do more work, and do it better, than two men with one mule each. He must learn to till his soil better—learn that the time to prepare land is *before* the crop is planted, and *not* afterwards, as

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many farmers seem to think, judging by the methods they practice. He must become acquainted with the great principles of soil fertility, and the adaptability of to soils. He must learn to plant "cover crops" to hold his soil in the winter time. He must learn to increase the producing power of his land—to use a quicker succession of crops and get two or three crops off of his land every year instead of only one or a half of one. He must learn to use lime and manure and commercial fertilizers, but to use them *rationally*. Last year Alabama spent \$6,240,000 for commercial fertilizers, much of it unnecessarily. Suppose one half of this sum had been spent for the *education* of the farmer. Who can estimate the great good it would have done? Any permanent system of farming must be built upon animal husbandry as a basis, therefore it is necessary that the farmer also have a knowledge of those fundamental principles of breeding and of feeding that make possible the economical production of animals. But Alabama's *greatest* need is for *educated men*, for AUBURN men if you please, upon the farm. We must have better farmers and better overseers.

Facts, like figures, do not lie. Then let us look at some facts and figures and see something of the possibilities of farming in Alabama. The Alabama experiment station has demonstrated that pork can be produced for three cents a pound. It has found that breeding hogs can be carried through the winter on peanuts at a cost of only two and a half to three cents per head per day. A successful farmer in the state writes "our investment in sheep has never paid us less than one hundred per cent on the investment, and some years even more than that." A successful cattle feeder finds it possible to make his beef cattle net him ten dollars a head. Dairymen are unable to meet the demand for their products, and this too with whole milk selling at twenty-five to forty cents a gallon, butter at thirty to forty cents a pound, and

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All kinds of Agricultural crops respond readily to intelligent treatment. Yields of one hundred and forty two bushels of corn, one hundred and forty-eight bushels of oats, three bales of cotton, six tons of alfalfa hay, four or more tons of cowpeas and other hays have been made, and can be made again. A great variety of truck and horticultural crops thrive splendidly and offer inviting fields to those who are inclined toward intensive farming.

When a young man comes out of college with a knowledge of the scientific principles of Agriculture, and looks about him at Alabama's undeveloped resources and great possibilities, well might his enthusiasm bring forth the exclamation, "Alabama! Alabama!—here we rest!"

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## WHY A YOUNG MAN SHOULD BE A FARMER.

There are many potent reasons why a young man should choose farming as an occupation. It is not only to his advantage but it is better for his country, that he in his youth, should enlist in that great army of men who in the past have done so much, and will in days to come do even more for the prosperity and happiness of all mankind. When he is young, bouyant and charged with ambition's fire, is the golden opportunity in his life to begin farming. First let him make up his mind to stick to it in days of adversity as well as in days of plenty, and he will surely be rewarded for his labors. Next, let him remember that there is no royal road to learning, and that success comes only to those who judge well, work hard, observe closely and deal fairly. He must be economical and temperate in all things and live according to his means and income. Agriculture, as everyone knows is the foundation upon which all other professions and pursuits are builded. If every farmer should produce on his farm only enough to feed and clothe his family, with no surplus for sale, what would be the fate of those engaged in other pursuits?

To be sure all commercial, industrial and manufacturing interests are important but they are small when compared to the Agricultural interests of the country. Young men of energy and brain are everywhere needed on the farm, and such men can safely count on success. There is no occupation under the sun more honorable than farming. Farming is the backbone of the world. Farming is more independent than any other occupation. The farmer comes and goes to his work when it pleases him. He is his own master. He has refused to sell it at any consideration. He has every opportunity to exercise his brain. Never a day passes but that he is brought face to face with some new problem, on the correct solution of which depends his success or failure.



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When the carpenter lays down his saw and hammer, or the merchant his yard stick, his income stops. When the farmer lays aside his implements of husbandry his crop continues to grow, his sleep is peaceful and sweet, because he feels, when his day's work is done he has added to the comfort and wealth of the world. Then who can say, he is not the most important citizen of his country?

If the farmer were estimated at his real and true value he would take first place. By his labor and the use of his brain he gives an increased value to every acre of land. He creates wealth. He not only causes two ears of corn to grow where one grew before but he causes two to grow where none grew before. He does not become rich by other peoples failures. He is the one tub which stands upon its own bottom. When the speculator makes a dollar, another man loses a dollar. The farmer by his untiring labor, adds to the comfort and joy of all people.

In these days when agriculture is being taxed to its limit to feed and clothe our urban people, the possibilities on the farm are expanding to meet the increased demands. Farming as a business is second to none, and farming as a science is no less important. Modern business and scientific methods applied to agriculture, have elevated this important occupation to the plane of profession, and as such it is now recognized. You men on the farm should see that there is as much dignity and honor in the pursuit of agriculture as in following law, medicine or engineering. Farmers of today must be educated, and those of tomorrow must be more advanced in scientific lines.

Someone has said, "The farmer is a public benefactor, and worth more to his county than all the chronic office-seekers and professional politicians who ever lived."

As time rolls on the farmer will become more and more intelligent, and will see more clearly the necessity of all pulling together. Farming will become a more profitable

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ble occupation in the future than it has been in the past. Thinking people no longer look upon labor on the farm as being degrading. The farmers are rapidly coming into their own, and the time will soon be, when they can not only demand a just recognition of their rights, but can force it.

The past is gone, the future is before us. The mistakes of the past if wisely considered become lessons for the future. A skilled hand and an educated brain to direct it will hasten our progress and increase the value of all our country's resources. The old objectionable way is giving place to the new and better way. New methods are being demonstrated every day. Land is too valuable to be cultivated in the old slipshod manner. "Make the land rich and it will make you rich."

The young man who engages in farming and sticks to his business through cloud and sunshine, uses energy and economy, exercises good judgment, avoids bad habits, keeps sober, deals honestly and fairly with his fellow-man, looks and plans ahead, and puts his trust in God will surely reap success as a reward, and when his days on earth are ended he will enter into that city, "Where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

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## BENEFITS OF ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE.

Among the operations whereby land which is unfit for cultivation, may be made so, I think artificial drainage in most cases exceeds them all. There are considerable areas over parts of our country, which are entirely unfit for cultivation, or producing such small crops as to make them unprofitable to mankind. The most healthy growth of our farm crops is dependent very largely upon the proper depth of soil containing capillary water only. Roots require air as well as water and it is the experience of common observation that where soils are too wet, air is at its minimum in quantity. Especially in the eastern portion of the United States. The greater portion of our lands need drainage—artificial or natural. This is explained by the fact that the amount of water coming to the soil in the form of rain and snow is greater than that which is taken away by natural drainage, evaporation and demands of growing plants. The demands of drainage lies in the two cases: 1. Where the surface is underlain by a subsoil too compact to allow the percolation of water through them; or 2. Where the area in question lies at a low level. Low lands may need artificial drainage for one or more reasons: 1. Where flooded by neighboring high lands. 2. By floods from streams. 3. Flooded by tides, etc. Hillsides and slopes, especially those with compact subsoils are often wet because of springs and ooze water.

Among the principal benefits derived from artificial drainage are: 1. It deepens the soil. 2. Promotes aeration. 3. Makes tillage operations easier. 4. Makes manures more effective. 5. Lengthens the period of work and growth. 6. Warms the soil. 7. Makes tillage easier. 8. Promotes better germination of seed. 9. Reduces injuries to crops by drouth. 10. Reduces the amount of surface wash. 11. Results in production of



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larger crops and better quality. 12. Produces good sanitary conditions.

Depth of soil: The roots of the most of our farm crops are restricted to that portion of the soil above the water table; so it is a self-evident fact that in an inadequately drained soil, roots do not penetrate to as great a depth as in the adequately drained soils. Artificial drainage lowers the water table to the level of the tiles, if placed at the proper distance apart. Of course when roots go further into the soil their feeding surface is enlarged and by this fact our farm area is enlarged.

Better aeration: A wet soil prevents the diffusion of air into it only to a limited extent. As the water table is lowered the depth to which air penetrates increases, and the beneficial action of the air in increasing the availability of the natural constituents of the soil is well known.

Manures are more effective: The plant food in many forms of manure are not in an available form when applied to the soil, and before it becomes available these manures, like the soil itself, must be exposed to natural agencies; oxygen, the most important. In well drained soils the useful micro-organisms, the microscopic plants which help make the nitrogen available, find favorable conditions for development, while, if soil is inadequately drained, denitrifying organisms develop and cause loss of plant food.

Soil is warmer: The specific heat of water is 1, while that of the average soil is about .3. When the soil is well drained its specific heat is lowered; therefore it warms more quickly and evaporation is reduced, which is of prime importance.

The season is lengthened: Insufficiently drained soil is not in a tillable condition till later in the season than that which is well drained, and as the days begin to shorten and rains frequent in autumn, the ill-drained soil becomes unfit to work very early. The longer the

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season for tillage the longer the time for planting and growing crops—both of which are prolonged, are materially prolonged by drainage.

**Tillage:** No farm implements can do effective work on wet soil. The preparation of the soil is easier after drainage, the land crumbles more readily and natural agencies favor the bringing the soil into mellow and crumbly condition.

**Drouth:** It is paradoxical at first though to assert that drainage, the process of removing water from the soil, lessens the liability of injury to crops from drouth; but no fact connected with the effects of drainage is better established. No doubt one of the chief reasons why plants on well drained soil suffer less in drouth than before drainage, is because they are more deeply rooted. In inadequately drained soils the water table is near the surface in early spring and lowers considerably, after rains become infrequent, in later seasons, leaving the roots in dry medium and near the surface.

**Germination of seeds:** In ill-drained soils, seed frequently rot on account of being too wet, which is a condition fatal to germination as well as its prevention of defusion of air which is essential to this same property of seed, and also being too cold.

**Surface wash:** Is reduced, for most of the excess water during floods is handled by the drains, thus decreasing the erasive effects of swift water.

**Sanitary conditions:** When areas of swamps or low lands, not properly drained prevail, malarial diseases are prevalent because of the vast number of mosquitoes breeding there.

**Crops are larger and of better quality:** From the foregoing statements, there is logic to prove that drainage affords better and larger yields of crops. From chemical analysis this is especially shown to be true as regards the proportion of valuable constituents such as starch, sugar and albuminoids.

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## THE SUCCESSFUL SOUTHERN FARMER.

By Luther D. Fuller.

At the present outlook, farming is one of the most profitable and pleasant occupations a man can pursue. Every magazine and paper of today which we read has some article in it about the possibilities of the farmer. These articles deal with all classes of farming from the great corporation farms of the West to the small one-horse farmer. In a report issued by the Bureau of Statistics it has been shown that the population of the United States is increasing in proportion much larger than the farm products are, and at this rate the prices of the farm products are going higher. This goes to show that the opportunity of the farmer is greater today than ever before.

In the South today the main and practically the only crop grown is cotton. Some lands of the South have been growing cotton year after year for many years, and the result is that "Old King Cotton" has been gradually sapping the life blood from the land and has produced a very unfertile and worn out soil. One kind of crop will put back into the soil what another has taken out and there has been no crop to replace the plant food taken out by the continuous cotton crop.

The largest plantations are being farmed by the negro tenants who have no education and know nothing of the underlying principles of farming. The owner of the plantation will turn his plantation over to these negroes and probably will not take notice of what they are doing more than once each year. They have no system of rotation of crops nor any way of regulating the plowing so as to maintain or increase the fertility of the land.

Nearly all of the products such as meat, corn, oats, horses, mules, etc., which we buy on the market are shipped from the North. Why not raise these things ourselves and keep this money at home? At present a



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By Luther D. Fuller.

At the present outlook, farming is one of the most profitable and pleasant occupations a man can pursue. Every magazine and paper of today which we read has some article in it about the possibilities of the farmer. These articles deal with all classes of farming from the great corporation farms of the West to the small one-horse farmer. In a report issued by the Bureau of Statistics it has been shown that the population of the United States is increasing in proportion much larger than the farm products are, and at this rate the prices of the farm products are going higher. This goes to show that the opportunity of the farmer is greater today than ever before.

In the South today the main and practically the only crop grown is cotton. Some lands of the South have been growing cotton year after year for many years, and the result is that "Old King Cotton" has been gradually sapping the life blood from the land and has produced a very unfertile and worn out soil. One kind of crop will put back into the soil what another has taken out and there has been no crop to replace the plant food taken out by the continuous cotton crop.

The largest plantations are being farmed by the negro tenants who have no education and know nothing of the underlying principles of farming. The owner of the plantation will turn his plantation over to these negroes and probably will not take notice of what they are doing more than once each year. They have no system of rotation of crops nor any way of regulating the plowing so as to maintain or increase the fertility of the land.

Nearly all of the products such as meat, corn, oats, horses, mules, etc., which we buy on the market are shipped from the North. Why not raise these things ourselves and keep this money at home? At present a

good mule costs at least \$150. Think of the money that could be saved if the Southern farmer would raise his own mules. It has been proven by the most successful farmers that these products can be raised at home.

The greatest enemy which is encroaching upon the Southern cotton planter is the Boll Weevil. This great pest has already crossed the Mississippi River and in a few years will be in Alabama. Now when this pest reaches here it will ruin the farmer who raises cotton alone, but the farmer who diversifies his farm crops will not be worried by it very much.

We see that the farmer who is to be successful must make a change from the cotton crop and be prepared for this pest. The great question is, "How can we make farming successful?" There are many ways in which we can make it successful.

First: The farm must receive the personal attention and superintendence of the owner. He must do away with the tenant system as far as possible, at any rate the hands should be directed by the owner personally.

Second: He should make a study of his farm and its necessities and should keep a record of all money spent and received for crops, so that he will not lose money on any one crop.

Third: He must diversify his crops, he should not raise any one crop but should be on the safe side by raising a variety. Legumes such as cow peas, crimson clover and vetch should be grown on the land and turned under for green manuring. Use all barnyard manure available, thus saving much of the money for commercial fertilizers.

Fourth: All seed planted should be selected. If cotton is raised there should be a prize patch from which to get the seed. He should also have a breeding plot of corn, as well as a multiplying plot which should be run each year.

Fifth: He should raise live stock. There is no neces-

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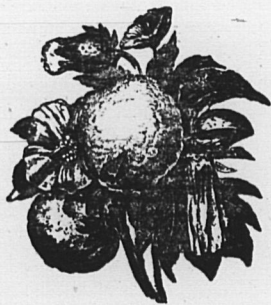
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The surroundings of the farm should be made more pleasant so as to make the farm life pleasant for both young and old. Have a home which is attractive and well stocked with good books. Conditions should be so as to satisfy the young people and thus induce them to be contented and live on the farm. By these means the Southern farmer can live a refined, chivalrous and profitable life.



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## THE GREATEST NEEDS OF THE SOUTHERN FARMER.

Out of the numerous things that might be enumerated as being helpful to the Southern farmer, there are two principal ones that are absolutely necessary for his success, viz; (1) The growing of live stock; (2) The growing of forage crops. It can easily be seen that one is more or less dependent upon the other, and the farmer cannot grow one successfully without the other.

The most important need of the Southern farmer is more and better work animals. He needs their power to run machinery and save human labor. In Alabama then are 4.4 people to every work animal and in Georgia there are 6.6 people to every work animal, while in Iowa there are 4 work animals to one person. The farmer in Iowa makes the horse and mule do the work while he rides and drives. The average farmer in Iowa does about four times as much work as the average farmer in Alabama, and makes ten times as much by growing of live stock. The farmer will be able to obtain from three to four times as much for his crops as he would by selling them alone. To illustrate, the farmer in the South generally sells his corn alone from \$0.75 to \$1.00 per bushel, while if he would feed it to hogs in connection with peanut pasture he could get \$3.50 per bushel, and by feeding it to hogs in connection with soy bean pasture he would get a still better price, \$4.00 per bushel. He would also retain the fertility of his soil by selling it through the hogs. For when he sold the corn alone he would reduce the fertility of his soil more than twice as much as he would by selling it through the hogs. In this way he can keep his money at home.

The growing of live stock on the farm will aid the farmer to put land into use that could not be used otherwise. In the South there are thousands of acres of land lying idle, growing up in brush and fine grasses. In Alabama



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alone there is about 40 per cent. of the land that is being cultivated or used to return wealth to the owner and state. So the average farmer in Alabama has about 60 per cent of his capital lying idle. This is quite universal with the Southern States. There are also thousands of acres under cultivation to-day in the South that should be put into permanent pasture and live stock placed upon them.

It has already been stated that the farmer cannot grow live stock successfully without growing forage crops. There are two classes of forage crops; the grasses, and the legumes. To the latter belong clovers, alfalfa, vetches, peas, beans, etc. The legumes should interest the Southern farmer most, for they enrich the soil by adding nitrogen through the work of their nitrofixing organisms. Since nitrogen is one of the three principle elements (nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid) in which the soil is deficient. It becomes necessary for the farmer to supply it. For this reason if for no other, the legumes would be of vital importance to any farmer. Besides they furnish us our most valuable hays and pastures for all of our live stock.

The soils in the South are especially subject to leaching due to long and mild winters, and excessive rain fall throughout the season. By growing some good cover crop as burr clover this could be held in check.

Crimson clover is an excellent soil improver. In New Jersey an acre of full bloomed crimson clover contained 200 lbs., of nitrogen in tops and roots, or as much as is contained in 20 tons of horse manure.

Alfalfa is very valuable for its hay, and furnishes excellent pasture, especially for hogs. It can be easily grown on the limey soils of the South. Its value as a soil improver is plainly seen in the following illustration. In Louisiana 23 bales of cotton, weighing 575 pounds each, were produced on 18 acres the season after an eleven year old field of alfalfa had been plowed up. This soil

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had been in cotton for several years previous to the seeding of the alfalfa and had not given more than one half bale of cotton to the acre in any one season.

The vetches furnish excellent hays if sown with some of the grains, as oats or wheat so they can be cut. And, as a soil improver. At Auburn an acre of good hairy vetch stored up 200 pounds of nitrogen in the roots and tops.

The soy bean is a soil improver and is particularly noted for its value as a pasture for hogs.

Perhaps the Southern farmer is better acquainted with the cowpea than any of the legumes; and, it means much to him both as a feed and a soil improver. At the Mississippi Delta Station, cowpeas were sown in corn at last working. After gathering the corn, 51 spring pigs were turned into the peafield of 17 acres. They had no additional feed, and the net gain made from the peas was 2893 pounds at 6cts., per pound, giving value for the peas of \$10.20 per acre. Also the manure and humus from stalks and vines were left on the land. It was also found at the same station that growing peas in corn, increased the succeeding cotton crop by 110 pounds of lint per acre. Figuring the increase at 14cts., per pound the peas had a fertilizing value of \$15.40 per acre.

The biggest problem that confronts the Southern farmer is the question of richer lands. And in solving this great problem he should ever be mindful of the relation of live stock and legumes to the fertility of his soil. For in the South the climate is especially suitable for their production. We hope the day will come in the near future when the Southern farmer will realize this fact, and take hold of it and push it forward, for it is the key to his noble profession, "farming."

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## DREAMING OF HIS ALMA MATER.

Come with me gentle reader, to a lovely valley in the tropical Phillipines and listen to the story of a beautiful dream. The dream of a busy, successful, young college graduate, dreaming of his beloved Alma Mater, the glories and sweet charms of which still lingered in his tender memory.

On a clear moonlight night, the stars shining full in the heavens, this man, the leader of a company of college men sent here on a big government project, told his story. On former evenings each of the other men had related the delightful incidents of his college days, and now they had requested their Chief to tell his story. After a short silence he began:

"My friends, last night I lived over my whole college career again. Yes, for in an enchanting dream, there loomed before my eyes the outlines of the old college buildings, the lights of the huge college clock in the tower above shone brilliantly, and near by was the Chapel Hall where every morning I repaired for prayer. In front stretched the lovely campus, with its shady trees, beautiful lawns, and winding walks. In the rear lay the large Athletic field and Gymnasium, where many a victory was fought and won, and the stately buildings all around, forming the College Quadrangle."

"And again I saw myself in that uniform of gray, a soldier of learning, and heard the peal of the College bell as it rang out its calls to duty. Again, I found myself in the class rooms and workshops where my work was done under the guiding hand of beloved Professors."

"On the hill, not far away, was the Church, where every Sunday morning I, in company with the other cadets, went to the Sabbath service. Singing in the choir, was the girl, so sweet and pure, whom first I loved. And once more we were walking along the bright paths, pouring out our love and promising to be true to each other"



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"O! how sweet and glorious were those old college days, made so by duties well performed and soft words of encouragement from her whom I loved. On and on I dreamed. Like scenes in a play, the various incidents of those four years, my struggles, failures and successes, rolled before my eyes. Once more I was a happy, care-free boy, one out of seven hundred struggling for education and independence. Until at last, having reached the goal, I saw myself in a crowded, beautifully decorated hall, about to receive my diploma. And as I awoke, among sounds of cheering and sweet music, I cried:

O, Auburn, dear Auburn, of thee I am dreaming,

In my heart, love for thee still is gleaming,

May thy charms from my memory never fade

But linger, linger, till in the dust I'm laid."

JOSEPH COHEN, '10.



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## AM I WRONG IN THESE AIMS?

To avoid the strenuous way that leads to fame, fortune, and other troubles.

To serve my Maker, my fellows, and myself without forsaking the frugal life of a country swain.

To divide my time into due proportions of work, rest, play, and sleep.

To make my busy hours delightful and my idle hours profitable.

To forget many things learned at this college and leave some things unsolved.

To know only a few books, but to read them many times. To read the Bible daily.

To be a disciple of Robert Louis Stevenson and Walt Whitman. To memorize "The Rubaiyat," Gray's "Elegy," and many passages from Goldsmith."

To dip occasionally into local history and literature and tell a few simple annals.

To travel a little that I may think more of home scenes.

To stroll frequently, both alone and accompanied. To sit sometimes in the shade and dream.

To know more, not only of nature, but of human life.

To grow some fruits and sing a few songs of the soil, both to be a delight to myself and others.

To cultivate love abundantly and seek it continually.

To face death calmly and be buried where there are no great monuments except trees.

To have over my grave this inscription: "A modest dweller in the land of the blessed."

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## JOHN'S COLLEGE EDUCATION.

Dedicated to the agricultural students of Auburn.

This college edication is a puzzlin' thing to me,  
An' fer all my cackelations I ain't managed yit to see  
Jest how they take a feller, and by some plan of theirs,  
Learn him a lot more fancy tricks than his daddy learned  
in years.

Now my son John he went down there and stayed a year  
or two,  
An' then he got a great big sheet that said that he was  
through,  
An' also said that he was fit to do most anything  
From pullin' fodder in the fall, to breakin' land in spring.

When John come home an' read us that he swelled up  
mighty proud,  
An' looked at me an' ma an' sorter cleared his throat  
an' lowed  
That he was goin' to run the farm if I'd give him a trial,  
An' show us all a trick or two that'd make us crack a  
smile.

I looked at ma an' kinder laughed—I'd heerd sich talk  
before,  
An' jedged that if John had his way we'd soon be pretty  
pore,  
Fer I knowed John had never done much farm work  
'round our place,  
An' to let him ruin a crop fer us would be a plumb dis-  
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So I jest up an' told 'im so, an' told him what I thought,  
About this larnin' got from books, and 'sperience bein'  
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About this larnin' got from books, and 'sperience bein'  
bought,

But that I'd give 'im a fair show to prove what he  
could do,

By givin' him a piece o' land, a cow, an' a mule er two.

Well, so I did, expectin' that he'd soon git tired an' quit  
An' give me back the stuff an' say he'd had enough of it.  
To let him git experience where he couldn't do no harm.  
Then I would take him up an' I could work him on the  
farm

John seemed to be right pleased with the arrangements  
I had made,

An' never wasted any time a-settin' in the shade,  
But puttered 'round a month er so a-gittin' things in fix  
An' then he sudden started to work some of his tricks.

He done a lot of curious things within the next few  
months.

He got new-fangled plows an' things with which to do  
his stunts.

He finally got his seed all in, an' fore long, all laid by;  
The weeks went on an' still he worked, an' fall come by  
and by.

Then come the occasion of the time that my conversion  
come about,

For the summer had been long an' hot and we'd had quite  
a drought;

But John's crops, notwithstanding this, was looking  
pretty fine—

In fact, his yield per acre proved a darn sight more than  
mine.

John showed hisself a farmer from his toenails to his  
crown,

In spite o' the fact that he got his start down in that  
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In spite o' the fact that he got his start down in that  
college town,

And so the next spring him an' we both started in together

To run the farm 'long *college lines* in drought or rainy weather.

An' ever since, we've made good crops, and never failed to raise

A bale of cotton to the acre, and corn most high as trees.

An' by the way, I've got another little chap a-runnin' 'round,

An' by God's help he'll git his start down in that college town.

CHAS. W. CRUMLY.



And so the next spring him an' we both started in together  
To run the farm 'long *college lines* in drought or rainy  
weather.

An' ever since, we've made good crops, and never failed  
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A bale of cotton to the acre, and corn most high as trees.  
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## HER LITTLE SCHEME.

There was a hen  
Too old to lay,  
The farmer men  
Oft looked her way,  
She saw them at her slyly winking,  
And so began to do some thinging.

She knew that she  
Could earn no corn  
And fricassee  
Might soon adorn.  
But boldly she the problem tackled;  
When others layed, she loudly cackled.

Her little scheme  
Worked well, indeed,  
Her owners deem  
Her worth her feed.  
About the yard she waxes fatter  
And still escapes the dreaded platter.  
—Ex.

---

MARY'S LITTLE HEN.

Mary had a little hen  
Upon her little farm.  
Against the wolf before the door  
It proved a perfect charm.

Each day it layed a little egg,  
Which Mary sold at town,  
And thus she bought her groceries,  
And now and then a gown.

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The years passed, and Mary paid,  
The little mortgage due,  
And sent her girl to boarding school,  
Her boy to college, too.

She has a nest egg in the bank,  
And even keeps a cook  
And everything about her has  
A thrifty, well-kept look.

Says she to those who daily fail  
With needle, brush, and pen;  
"If you would do as well as I,  
Just keep a little hen."

—Ex.

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#### GEMS FROM EXAM. PAPERS.

"Work is somewhat of an exercise or vibration of the muscles. Walking is work, pulling a plow is work, eating is a very easy kind of work."

"Work is getting down the row behind old buck or in pitching hay into the barn, anything that keeps the muscles going is work."

"A caloric is the amount of heat required to raise a gram of water from the surface of the earth to the height of one meter."

"A caloric is the amount of heat used as a unit, that is required to evaporate a given amount of water at 40° C."

"A caloric is the name representing the measure or weight of a substance."

"A caloric is the amount of energy required to raise a pound of anything 2°."

"Nutritive ration is the part of nutritive and non-nutritive ration compared that will produce work or fat."

"The chemical elements in carbohydrates are starch,

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fat, protein and sugar. In fat is water and starch. In protein are ash, mineral water."

"The difference between carbohydrates and fats are: In carbohydrates the oxygen and nitrogen are not in the proportion to form water."

"Prepotency is feeding an animal on a large amount of proteids."

"Prepotency is when the food is well proportioned that it may be digested easily."

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A traveler from the corn belt was passing through the rural regions of the South when he met a farmer who owned a drove of razor back swine. "Why don't you put those hogs in a pen and feed them like they do in the corn belt? They would fatten much quicker," said the traveler.

"What's the use?" answered the native. What in the h— is time to a hog, anyway?"

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Mr. Shook, (in Sophomore Judging): "Mr. B., what do you know of the temperature of this cow?"

Mr. B.: "I don't know anything. She wouldn't let me get near enough to feel of it."

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Prof.: "Mr. Nettles, describe an ideal lard hog."

Mr. N.: "We should have a nice pen with a plank floor to put him in, and always keep the trough clean."

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Prof. G.: "Which is the best type for lard making?"

Mr. W.: "I can't say, sir."

Prof. G.: "Well, Mr. W., can you tell me if this is a male or female hog?"

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Prof.: "Just wait a moment, Mr. D., and I will bring you a mirror."



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# Editorials

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Every one who is familiar with Auburn's past history cannot but be impressed by the rapid growth of the Agricultural Course during the last four years. What does it mean? It is an indication that the people of Alabama are beginning to realize that the great need of the State is more farmers and better farmers. It shows that our farmers are becoming anxious to learn more about their profession.

Since Auburn is the center of agricultural instruction for our State it must be true that the agricultural students of this institution are to be the leaders in furthering the awakening which has already been begun throughout the South. The advantages which are offered to the students make it possible for them to be of great service to the State. Therefore, we, as students, should do all in our power to develop our course.

We feel sure that last year's Agricultural Issue of our paper did much good in pointing out the opportunities offered here, and we hope that this issue may likewise be found helpful.

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## THE CLUB.

The Students' Agricultural Club has recently moved into its new room in the Comer Agricultural Hall. The fact that the club had for a long time no room of its own in which to hold its meetings was a serious drawback. Our first meeting in the new room was perhaps the best we have had for months. This was really a revival meeting, and in the meantime enough money was made up to buy an attractive suite of furniture. Our most serious

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difficulty has been overcome. There is no reason why the club should not do even more than it has ever done before. We claim to be interested in our chosen line of work. If we really have our work at heart, our interest will bear fruit. We cannot afford not to come out and help boost the club.

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We often hear it said that the flow of population from the country to the city is greatly to be deplored. Perhaps it is an evil but it is a necessary evil. If we inquire into the causes and consequences of this change of population we shall see that a process of selection is being carried on. As long as lands were cheap the cheap farmer could afford to stay on them. But since the value of lands are increasing the cheap farmer must gradually give place to the progressive farmer. His progress must keep pace with the increase in value of the land or he must get out of the way. The man who is better fitted for some occupation other than farming is being culled out. It is a case of the "survival of the fittest."



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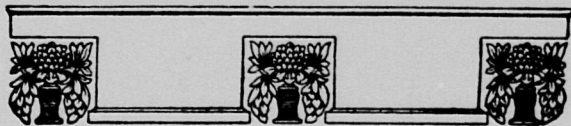
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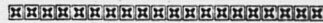
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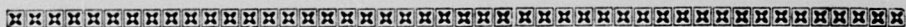
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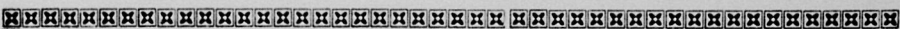
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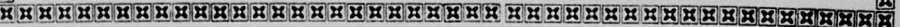
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**LABORATORY INSTRUCTION:** Laboratory instruction and practical work are given in the following departments: 1. Civil Engineering. 2. Electrical Engineering. 3. Telephone Engineering. 4. Mechanical Engineering. 5. Architecture. 6. Mining Engineering. 7. Mechanic Arts. 8. Technical Drawing. 9. Agriculture (Farm 304 acres, varied experiments). 10. Veterinary Science. 11. Horticulture. 12. Animal Industry, Five thoroughbred herds. Dairy. 13. Chemistry, Metallurgy, Assaying. 14. Pharmacy. 15. Physics. 16. Mineralogy. 17. Bacteriology. 18. Botany. 19. Biology. 20. Entomology.

**ATTENDANCE:** The attendance last year was 617, representing twelve States and two foreign countries; 66 counties of Alabama being represented

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**BOARDING:** The College has no barracks or dormitories, and the students board with families of the town of Auburn, and thus enjoy all the protecting and beneficial influences of the family circle.

**EXPENSES:** There is no charge for tuition for residents of Alabama. Incidental fee per half session, \$2.50; Laundry fee (first term) \$5.00; Library fee per half session, \$1.00; Surgeon's fee per half session, \$2.50; Laboratory fees in junior and senior years, \$5.00 per session; board per month, \$12.00 to \$15.00. At houses rented by the College, board can be secured at \$9.50 per month. These fees payable on matriculation.

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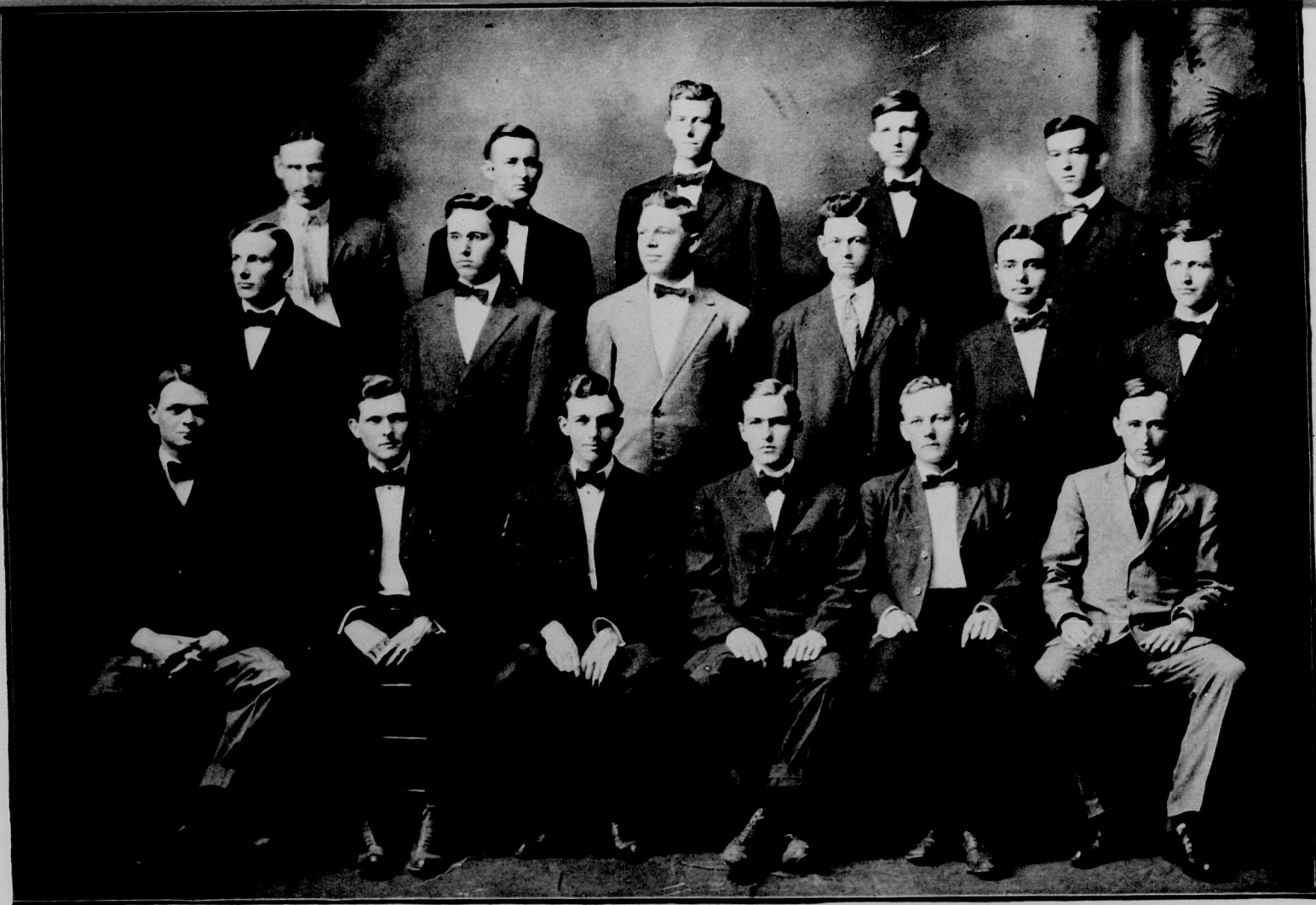
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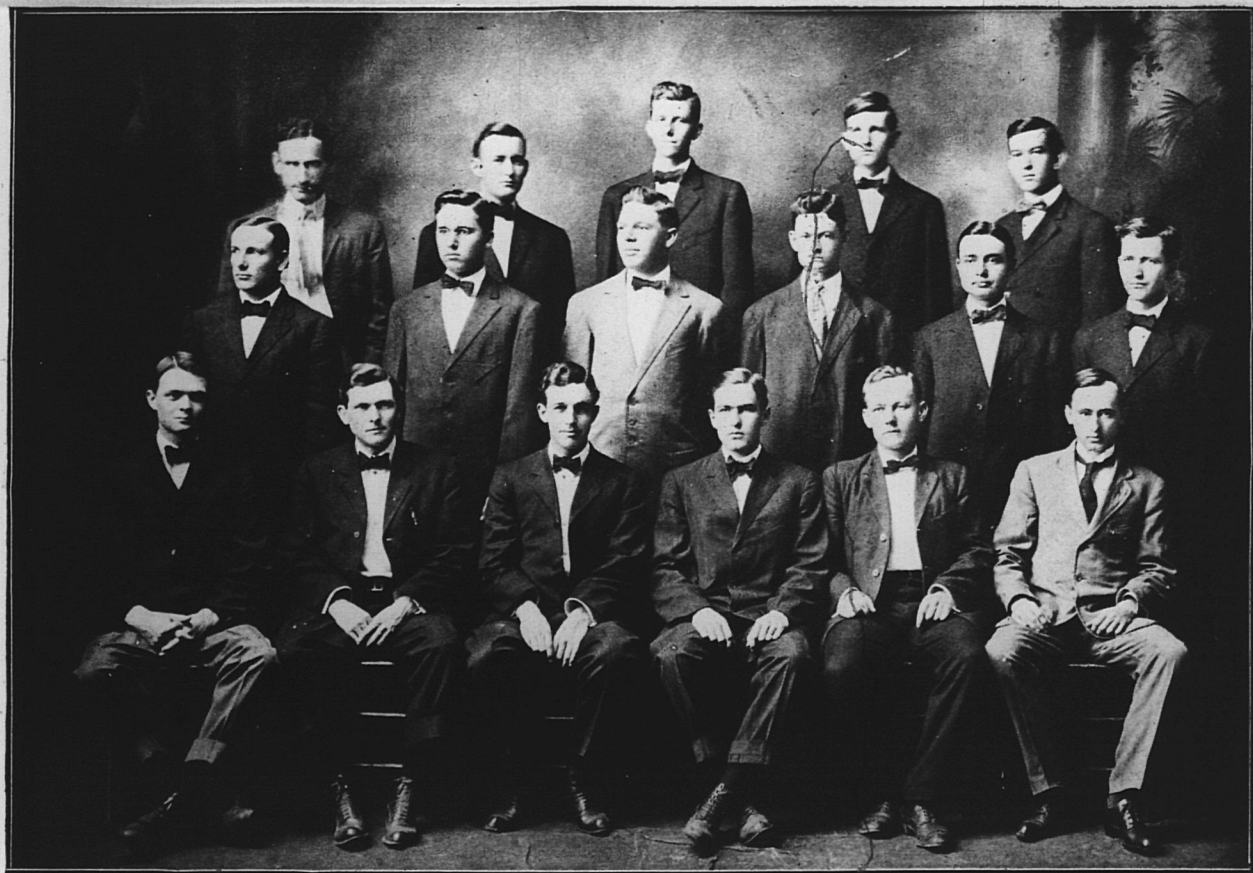
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